P04 / Bridging Divides: Comprehensive Public Policy Approaches for Addressing Inequalities

Topic : INEQUALITIES AND PUBLIC POLICY

Chair : Varun Chhachhar (University of Lucknow)

Second Chair : Niharika Kumar (University of Lucknow)

Third Chair : Swikar Sankrit (University of Lucknow)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Inequality has been and continues to be a matter of concern for the global community. Addressing the diverse inequalities has moved to the forefront of global policy debate with the objective of realizing equality for all. It features as the rallying point of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development as well. A variety of factors determine inequalities such as income, gender, age, origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, class, and religion. The United Nations in its report has found that these divides are becoming more pronounced in some parts of the world. Amongst the several divides, socio-economic inequalities have become increasingly prominent in many societies around the world.

In this backdrop, the panel proposes to explore comprehensive public policy measures aimed at bridging socio – economic divides with a focus on structural interventions, economic reforms, and social justice initiatives specifically targeting gender and income. This panel aims to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue that brings together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss innovative and effective policy solutions. The objective is to identify the key drivers of socio – economic inequalities with respect to wage distribution, health facilities, education and workforce development, and democratic participation; discuss comprehensive policy approaches; explore intersectionality in policy design and promote discussion on case studies and global perspectives.

Research Questions:

To guide the discussion, the panel will focus on the following research questions:

a. What are the primary drivers of economic and social inequalities in different contexts (e.g., developed vs. developing countries)?

b. What is the role of public policy in reducing these inequalities, and what are the most effective strategies?

c. How do historical legacies and institutional frameworks influence current levels of these inequalities?

d. What are the impacts of these inequalities on social cohesion, economic growth, and political stability?

e. How can public policy be designed to address the needs of the most vulnerable populations without exacerbating existing disparities?

f. What lessons can be learnt from successful policy interventions in different parts of the world?

Scientific Relevance:

The scientific relevance of this panel lies in its potential to contribute to the ongoing academic and policy debates on socio – economic inequalities. Despite significant research in this area, gaps remain in our understanding of the mechanisms driving these inequalities and the effectiveness of different policy responses.

The panel’s interdisciplinary approach will draw on perspectives from economics, sociology, political science, and public health, among other fields. This holistic view is crucial for understanding the complex nature of these inequalities and for designing comprehensive policy interventions. Additionally, the panel will highlight the importance of evidence – based policymaking, showcasing studies that utilize rigorous methodologies to assess the impact of policies on these inequalities.

Moreover, this panel will address the urgent need for policies that not only reduce socio – economic

inequalities but also promote sustainable and inclusive development. By examining the drivers, consequences, and policy responses to these inequalities, the panel seeks to contribute to the creation of fairer and more inclusive societies.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are pleased to invite scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to submit papers for our upcoming discussion on “Bridging Divides: Comprehensive Public Policy Approaches for Addressing Socio – Economic Inequalities.” This initiative aims to explore the complex landscape of inequalities (specifically income and gender) and the critical role of public policy in mitigating these disparities. Our goal is to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue that generates innovative and effective policy solutions to promote a more equitable and inclusive society.

The primary objective is to examine the various dimensions of social and economic inequalities with respect to wage distribution, health facilities, education and workforce development, and democratic participation. We aim to understand the root causes and consequences of these inequalities and discuss the role of public policy in addressing them.

Submissions should aim to address one or more (but not limited to) of the following thematic areas:

a. Inclusive economic growth and development.

b. Social welfare schemes as catalysts for gender and income equality.

c. Income and gender inequality as barriers to democratic participation.

d. Role of global policies and international organizations in reducing socio – economic inequality.

e. The intersection of climate change, income and gender inequality.

f. Impact of pandemic on labour market and gender inequality.

g. Gender, technology and economic disparities.

Despite extensive research, gaps remain in understanding the mechanisms driving socio – economic inequalities and the effectiveness of various policy responses. By integrating insights from multiple disciplines, this initiative aims to generate new knowledge and foster collaborative research efforts. Moreover, the discussion will emphasize the importance of evidence-based policymaking, highlighting studies that use rigorous methodologies to assess policy impacts.

In light of the global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and technological disruptions, this discussion will also address the need for resilient and adaptable policies that promote sustainable and inclusive development. The focus will be on how public policies can ensure that disadvantaged groups are not disproportionately affected by these global challenges.

We look forward to your contributions to this vital conversation on addressing socio – economic inequalities through robust public policy. Join us in this important discussion to advance our understanding and develop strategies to bridge socio-economic divides and create fairer, more inclusive societies.

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Session 1Session 1: Women, Children, and Public Policy

Thursday, July 3rd 08:00 to 10:00 (C2)

Discussants

Manisha Sihag (Panjab University)

Maitreyee Misra (University of Lucknow)

Empowering Women or Financing Patriarchy? Gendered Dynamics of Microfinance in Rural India

Manisha Sihag (Panjab University)

Manish Sihag (Panjab University)

Empowering Women, Enhancing Resilience: A Multidimensional Approach to Social Protection in Uttar Pradesh

Maitreyee Misra (University of Lucknow)

Unpaid Home Care Work and its Effects on Workforce Development Among Professional Women in the Southern Philippines

Vanessa Ascano (University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines)

Catherine Roween Almaden (Asian Institute of Management)

BRIDGING THE EQUALITY GAP: ADDRESSING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF SEX WORKERS IN INDIA THROUGH INCLUSIVE PUBLIC POLICY

Manjari Singh (University of Lucknow)

A Study on Efficacy of Right to Education Act, 2009 in the State of Uttar Pradesh

Karishma Verma (University of Lucknow)

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Session 2Session 2

Thursday, July 3rd 10:15 to 12:15 (C2)

Discussants

Vaishali Singh (XIM University)

Shivangi Singhal (FLAME University, India)

Bridging the Grey Digital Divide: A Systematic Review of Digital Exclusion, Social Precarity, and Policy Interventions for the Elderly in India

Vaishali Singh (XIM University)

The Effects of Personal Debt Adjustment Programs: Impact on Debt Burden and Quality of Life of the Doubly Disadvantaged

Jung Min Park (Seoul National University)

Ho Jun Park (Seoul National University, Korea)

(Virtual) Bridging Divides: Gender Diversity in India’s Fintech Leadership and the Role of Public Policy in Addressing Inequalities

Shivangi Singhal (FLAME University, India)

Juhi Sidharth (FLAME University)

Chaitanya Ravi (FLAME University)

Empowering Women Through Mobile Phones: Bridging Caste Inequalities in India's Digital Age

Surya Maiti (National Institute of Securities Markets)

Deepak Behera (RMIT International University Vietnam)

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Session 3Session 3: Environment and Policy Framework

Thursday, July 3rd 16:00 to 18:00 (C2)

Discussants

Manisha Yadav (Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University)

Shubham Shukla (University of Lucknow)

Uncertain Futures: Using an ABM to Understand the Dynamics of Inequality Under Climate Change in Southern India

Susan Das (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi)

Sara Constantino

The Disproportionate Burden of Climate Change: Challenges and Policy Solutions for the Marginalized

Manisha Yadav (Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University)

Air Pollution: A Socio-economic Vulnerability in South Asia, A Comparative Analysis of New Delhi And Dhaka

Shubham Shukla (University of Lucknow)